

Name: **Junk Creek WY-030-27N85W35-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: N/A _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ N/A _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): __ N/A

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Junk Creek WY-030-27N85W35-2012** Acreage 9,422.64

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the northwest by private and state land. The unit is bound on the east by BOR, USFWS, and private land. The unit is bound on the south by a Class 3 Light Duty Access Road as well as private land. The unit is bound on the west by a Class 5 4WD Road that has been previously graded as well as private land. The unit is bound on the north by USFWS land at Pathfinder NWR.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Junk Creek area under consideration is 9422.64 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t26n	r84w	18	t27n	r84w	31
t26n	r85w	13	t27n	r85w	36
t26n	r84w	8	t27n	r85w	35
t26n	r84w	7	t27n	r85w	34
t26n	r85w	12	t27n	r85w	33
t26n	r85w	11	t27n	r84w	30
t26n	r85w	10	t27n	r85w	25
t26n	r85w	9	t27n	r85w	26
t26n	r84w	5	t27n	r85w	27
t26n	r84w	6	t27n	r84w	19
t26n	r85w	1	t27n	r85w	24
t26n	r85w	2	t27n	r85w	23
t26n	r85w	3	t27n	r85w	22
t26n	r85w	4	t27n	r85w	13

The topography consists, primarily, of drainages surrounding Junk Creek which flow into the Junk Creek, Wood Creek, Tincup Creek, and Sunday Morning Creek. Elevation ranges from 7,615 feet on the tops of the mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 6,400 feet at the

bottom of the drainages. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 13.98 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 1-9. When hiking across the Junk Creek Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The numerous range improvements, including 18.15 miles of fence and one spring, are also impacted by commercial grazing operations giving the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Junk Creek Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Junk Creek WY-030-27N85W35-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones

Team members:

Name	Title
Chris Jones	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Robert Epp	BLM Range Management Specialist
Lynn McCarthy	BLM GIS Specialist
Natasha Keierleber	BLM Archaeologist
Kelly Owens	BLM Hydrologist
Kelly Fischer	BLM Wildlife Specialist
Nyle Layton	BLM Minerals Physical Scientist
Tim Novotny	BLM AFM Resources
Fred Peck	BLM Recreation Assistant

Reviewed by:

Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

Date: _____